

The Light

Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola
 9888 Pensacola Blvd.
 Pensacola, FL 32534
www.uupensacola.org

Return Service Requested

Deadline for submissions
 for March LIGHT:
 February 20

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FIRST SUNDAY REMINDER



Manna Memo
 In January, UUCP collected 101 pounds of animal and human food for Manna Food Bank. Feel free to buy big bags of food if you get the chance; Manna will break them down. Please keep donating generously the first Sunday of every month. They are running low on foodstuffs and the need gets greater weekly. Thank you for your support!



SECOND TUESDAY REMINDER

Sign up to serve dinner at **Bridges to Circles** from 5 - 7 pm, Tuesday, February 14th, in the old Sacred Heart building at 1212 Moreno St. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the foyer. Thank you for your service to those working to better themselves!



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VOLUME 55 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2012



Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

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 Maggie Lovins.....475-9077
 Office hours or by appointment:
 Tuesday and Thursday 11am-4 pm, *Wednesday off*

President: Carol Hemmye..... 438-3736
President Elect: Marylee Donnelly.....(251) 961-3175
Secretary: Marianne DeGrado.....478-3781
Treasurer: Laurie Winterberg.....434-3811

Board Members

Richard Carr..... 776-6858
 Chris Medwell.....934-9889
 Rose Jansen..... 473-0920
 Neil Cobb.....501-9050

Building and Grounds

Jay Butcher..... 324-4812
 Hugh Ed Turner.....478-2373

Membership

Holly Collins..... 479-8425

Children's Religious Education (CRE)

Sarah Stubbs.....437-5979
 Lauren Anzaldo437-1323

Caring

Saira Carr.....512-2901

Adult Education

Thom Botsford384-3282

Minister Emeritus

Rev. Bob Eddy474-0892

*The mission of UUCP is to embrace diversity,
 to live our beliefs, to learn and grow,
 and to serve others.*

Sunday Services

10 a.m.

February 5 - "Strength to Endure"

Rev. Julie Kain

Continuing in a sermon series on suffering and evil, Rev. Julie will lift up personal sources of strength to draw upon as we endure the hardships of life. In the midst of our sorrows and struggling, where can we find the comfort and support not only to keep going but to overcome and find peace with the obstacles in our lives? *After the service, Rev. Julie will lead a Chalice Circle open to newcomers and parents.*

Mardi Gras Auction & FUNN Raiser

Members and Friends, please join us on

Friday, February 10th 6-9 pm

Many items to bid on!!!

Entertainment!!!!

Food and Drinks Available!

Small Child care Provided!

February 12 - "All You Need is Love" Rev. Julie Kain

In celebration of the Valentine's Day holiday, this service for all ages will feature stories and songs about the healing power of love and the core value of our Universalist heritage.

February 19 - "The Price of Civilization"

UUCP Member Thom Botsford

Macroeconomist Jeffrey Sachs has written an authoritative book to challenge those who think the government is the source of our nation's economic and cultural malaise. Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, Sachs believes "the economic crisis of recent years reflects a deep, threatening, and ongoing deterioration of our national politics and culture." He bemoans "an overstimulated and consumption-driven populace" whose ferocious quest for wealth has resulted in shortfalls of social trust, honesty, and compassion. The discussion of "The Price of Civilization" will continue during one of the Religious Education sessions after the service.

February 26 - "Wilderness Journey"

Rev. Julie Kain

Many of us have known a time in our lives when we were wandering out on our own in a solitary journey. We'll explore the challenges and gifts of this kind of journey as part of the season of Lent. *After the service, Rev. Julie will offer a Meet and Greet with newcomers*



Julie's Jazz Notes

You won't want to miss the grand Mardi Gras Auction on Friday, February 10! An amazing assortment of items and services to bid on and a festive evening of food and live entertainment await us.

Lots of creative planning has gone into making this event a night to remember. Great deals, great company, great music and food, and it is all to benefit our church community! Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors for an evening of fun, merriment and awesome shopping.

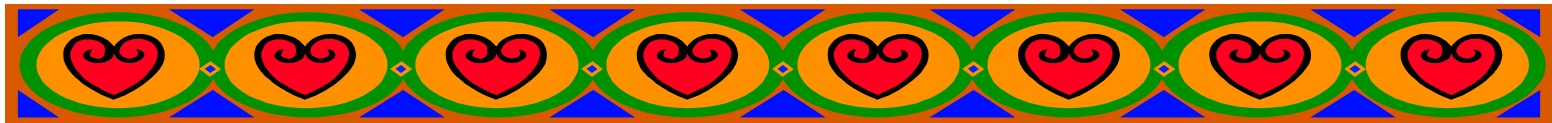
Another fantastic opportunity we have to support our growing community is the Sanctuary Renovation and Rejuvenation Campaign. This month we are collecting contributions to update the sanctuary space with new lighting, carpet, paint, ceiling and acoustic improvements. The plan was creatively designed in response to congregational input and the Long Range Plan by local designers Tip McAlpin and Lucy McLendon. If you haven't heard about the comprehensive plan yet, don't miss Tip and Lucy when they will lead a question and answer forum after the service on Sunday, February 5.

The renovation proposal is in its second year of gaining momentum. We are already almost halfway to the goal of raising \$50,000 for this capital improvement, and for every additional contribution, we have a generous matching grant to help us reach our goal! We have a target date of March 1st to receive contributions and pledges for this capital project. Then we will begin the annual pledge drive for next year's church operating budget.

Unitarian Universalists have had a home in Pensacola for over fifty years. We have enjoyed the beautiful church campus on Pensacola Boulevard with the Memorial Garden (and its redbud trees now in bloom) for nearly fifteen years. As we continue to make our presence known and active in the larger Pensacola community, an updated and rejuvenated sanctuary space will dramatically enhance our time together and the welcoming space we create for others to join us.

Don't miss these great opportunities to celebrate our UU community in Pensacola and to support our growing presence.

With genuine excitement,
Julie



Our Caring Community

Congratulations to **Trista Blouin, Ed Evans and the whole family on the birth of Chance Edward Evans** on January 12. To protect both mother and baby from additional health risks, Chance was delivered early and is doing well. We send loving thoughts to baby Chance and the whole family as they welcome their new addition.

Our condolences go to **Rose Jansen** whose sister-in-law recently passed from chronic health complications and to her whole family as her widowed brother also has serious health challenges.

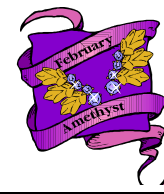
We offer healing wishes for **Priscilla Lamore** who is recovering from a bone fracture and to **Jerry Thompson** who continues to struggle with health issues that limit his mobility.

Carol and Byron Trotter recently made a move but are still in Orange Beach, Alabama. That's a big job so we hope it's going well for Carol and Byron and look forward to seeing them back at church as they get settled into their new place. The family of Carol's daughter including grandson Mason is also making a move from Florida to California. We hold their extended family in our loving thoughts during this time of transition.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's Martin Luther King Parade in downtown Pensacola, especially to **Maggie Lovins** who helped to organize the event, and to **Charlie Tow** who provided the trailer for our church float.


Best wishes to **Marcy Moreland** and **Rose Jansen** as they attend the Southeast UU Leadership Experience (SUULE) for a week in late February. Our church has been sending lay leaders to 'Leadership School' for many years at The Mountain, UU retreat center in North Carolina. This year the training will be held in Orlando and will include participants from the Florida district.

Special thanks to new church member **Pat Harrison** who has been volunteering her time to work in the church library, in-between her regular visits to Selma where she cares for her aging father.



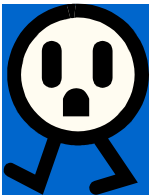
UUCP Calendar of Activities February 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Council of Team Leaders Meeting 10 am
5 Service 10 am	6	7	8 Lunch Bunch 1 pm (Off site) Chalice Circle Hagman/Coon Home 6:30 pm	9	10 Mardi Gras Auction!! 6-9 pm	11 Clean & Green Workday 8:30 am
12 Service 10 am Second Sunday Sweets	13	14 Bridges Out of Poverty Dinner 5-7 pm (Off Site) 	15 Women's Spirituality Circle 6:30 pm	16	17	18
19 Service 10 am	20 Light Deadline Board Meeting 6:30 pm	21	22	23	24	25
SUULE, Orlando →						
26 Service 10 am	27	28	29			



Light Plugs



The UUCP Classifieds

New Church Directory Available Online!

If possible please print your own copy to help our church save money and resources. Copies are available on the sign-up table in the foyer if needed.

Second Sunday Sweets Update!!!

Be prepared to purchase some delightful delicacies to eat or take home on February 12. Contact Barbara Goggins for more information or to donate your special homemade treat. All proceeds go to the general fund! January's bake sale raised **\$112.75!** Thank you to everyone with a generous heart and a sweet tooth!

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UUCP 2012 AUCTION & FUN-RAISER

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY
10TH, 6 PM

A VARIETY
OF ITEMS TO
BID ON!

ENTERTAINMENT

FOOD & DRINKS
AVAILABLE FOR A
DONATION

FUN FOR ALL!

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE



President's Notes



Happy Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, President's Day,
Mardi Gras and Leap Day!

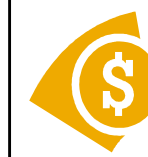
There's a whole lot of celebrating going on! And that's just the beginning... Our Annual Auction this year coincides with the Mardi Gras festivities, and Marylee Donnelly and her tireless crew have worked hard to make this an auction and evening to remember! Some of the silent auction items are on our totally amazing new website (thanks, Rose Jansen!) but there will be canapés, beverages, a live auction, and a number of other things up the Auction Team's collective sleeves. Plan on coming by about 6 PM and staying awhile on Friday, February 10. You just won't believe your eyes! And please—invite **everyone** you know. This evening is going to be so much fun, it would be criminal not to share it!

Other exciting happenings include the Facilities Improvement Team's fund-raising and research for giving our beloved church a "face-lift" in the sanctuary. If you missed the Midyear Congregational Meeting, you can get questions answered at an Adult RE on February 5, when Tip McAlpin and Lucy McLendon will be on hand with Nancy Hagman. We will also have a way for you to make your color preference known to the Team before any paint or carpet is bought. See the beautiful artist's rendition of the updated sanctuary, thanks to the talents of Holly Collins, and sign the drawing when you contribute to this exciting project.

Laissez Les Bon Temps Roulez 😊

See you 'round church!

Carol H.



UUCP Financial Update

Below is an update on monthly income and expenditures for December 2011:

Cash Received \$6,378.60

Cash Paid Out (\$11,870.31)

Cash Gain/(Loss) (\$5,491.71)

Year To Date Gain/(Loss) \$807.53

For your convenience you can now make additional donations via PayPal on our website. We ask that you please not make your usual pledges this way because PayPal will take a small part of your donation in fees for their services.

We will also be utilizing PayPal for church events. If you need any assistance please contact Rose Jansen at rosejansen@yahoo.com



Mid-South District Unitarian Universalist
Association of Congregations

MSD Annual Assembly, April 20 & 21, 2012
UU Church of Huntsville, Al.

WILLIAM F. SCHULZ - KEYNOTE SPEAKER
SOME PASSIONS NEVER DIE

William F. Schulz is the President and CEO of UUSC, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, a non-sectarian organization that advances human rights and social justice in the United States and around the world. Previously, he served for 12 years as executive director of Amnesty International USA, until spring of 2006. An ordained Unitarian Universalist minister, Schulz is a former president of the Unitarian Universalist Association. See page 8 to read one of his online articles!

Contact Carleen Dowell, TEACH Trustee at carleen.dowell@comcast for further information.

More MSD info available at: www.msduua.org/.



WAY Cool Sunday School

Children's Religious Education News:

WAY Cool Sunday School February Schedule

The name of our Children's Religious Education program (CRE) is **WAY Cool Sunday School**. Now is the time for families to register their children in the program. We need parents and other adults to be involved in this cooperative program, so please sign up for a volunteer opportunity. The children's **classes** take place two or three times a month. On the other Sundays, the children participate either in a **Children's Chapel** or a **multigenerational Sunday service**, which includes their participation in songs, stories, readings and skits.

The **WAY** acronym stands for the names of the three Classes with the following age groups:

"Wanderers" - Pre-kindergarten through second-graders meet in the Beach room. This year the Wanderers will be experiencing the stories of **Dr. Seuss** and how they teach UU ideas and values.

"Adventurers" - Third through sixth-graders meet in the Rain Forest room. This year the Adventurers will be using a curriculum called **"Keepers of the Earth,"** which shows how UU ideas and values can be learned within the context of Native American traditions.

"Youth Pathfinders" - Seventh through twelfth-graders meet in the Teen Room. Youth Pathfinders will follow a chalice circle format while using the curriculum called **"Sharing the Journey."** The youth will select some of their own **social justice projects**. They will offer their leadership for engaging other ages from throughout the congregation in the projects.

The **goals** of the CRE program are:

- multigenerational community building
- strengthening UU identity
- combining fun with learning
- visible participation of young people in our Sunday services

Please take time to get involved and support WAY Cool Sunday School!

February Schedule:

Feb 5 – Children's Chapel Led by Lauren Anzaldo/ MultiGen REGroup

Feb 12 – MultiGen Valentines Holiday Service

Feb 19 – Classes/ MultiGen REGroup

Feb 26 – Time for All Ages / Classes / MultiGen REGroup

Children's Religious Education (CRE) Advisory Team

Co-Leaders: Sarah Stubbs (437-5979) Lauren Anzaldo (437-1323)

mssarahstubbs@gmail.com laurenanzaldo@gmail.com

Team Members: Rose Jansen, Jaynelle Miller

CRE Administrator: Maggie Lovins

Feel free to contact any member with questions, comments or suggestions!

Recycle Ink Cartridges, Cell Phones & Digital Cameras at Church

Digital cameras are now being accepted! We continue to recycle inkjet cartridges, laser cartridges and cell phones. Please bring these items to church and put them in the designated box which is located along the back wall in the church library. Please do not put other electronics in the box, as they are not acceptable for recycling. Cell phones in working order are provided to individuals who could not otherwise afford them. And for each 24 items that can be recycled, American Forests plants a tree in our behalf. Additionally, the rebates we receive for the recyclables benefit our Religious Education program. ~ Penny Featherstone



GATHERINGS



"Clean and Green" Saturday February 11th 8:30 am



The January Green and Clean started cool, perhaps around 45 degrees, but with a little work the warming commenced. "Thanks" go out to **Neil Cobb** and **Steve Tuley** for their organizational efforts in the hall closet! It looks great! We'll go again at the same time this month, about 8:30 on Feb.11th unless the temperature is 35 degrees or lower on Friday night prior. As usual, look around the grounds whenever you're at UUCP, and plan to work on any problem areas you see, with your tools or ones from the shed. Ask Hugh or Jay what to work on, or for tools to work with, unless you have landscaping/beautification ideas (and tools) of your own. (I have a plan of sorts for the back landscape so join me to help it come to fruition!) Q&A to Hugh T. at 478-2373, huturn@juno.com.

Monthly Lunch Bunch, Wednesday, February 8, 1 pm



In January we tried Pita Pit, at \$6.49 base price; several of our seven attendees commented, "I wouldn't have tried this place on my own," and I agree. Even though the whole wheat pita is steamed to begin (easier to open I suspect), and perhaps you order something cooked to go into it, the final ingredients go in cold, so the pita (probably packed with diced veggies) is still cold. It was serving the UWF crowd well, but is not the "just OK" repast for which I'd drive far. They need to work on their product and their means of delivery. For the 2nd Wednesday of February - the 8th (almost too early), we'll do the Mellow Mushroom, 5175 Bayou Blvd. (I've long thought Bayou ended at 9th and Brent took over, and Google seems similarly perplexed) 475-7575. As usual, gather at 1 pm and we'll probably get to sit before ordering ... but I don't know for sure. Check with Hugh Turner at 478-2373 by the 7th to suggest you'll be there.

Women's Spirituality Circle, Wednesday, February 15, 6:30 pm



"Our mission is to create a safe and welcoming space for women to experience spirituality in community."

Our first meeting with the *Rise Up and Call Her Name* curriculum will be led by Kate Wolverton. She will be leading the session entitled *Beginning the Journey*, that will utilize meditation and personal sharing as our traveling tools while learning of the Mediterranean Goddess of antiquity, Hecate. Come as you are. All women are invited to attend! Snacks begin at 6:30, bring some to share. The ritual and program are from 7 - 8:30 p.m. Please consider staying to help with cleanup and bringing a donation for the childcare fund.

"Thank You" to everyone who donated to 'Guest at your Table' this year!



UUCP Sent in a total of \$770 for our 2012 donations to help support the important relief, social justice and community-building work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee! Don't forget- you can support the incredible work that the UUSC does all year long by shopping their store at www.uusc.org.

UUCP SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

Advancements in human rights come in either leaps or smaller steps, but far more often in steps. We notice the leaps, of course: In the 1990s, apartheid ended in South Africa and so did communism in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union; in 2002, the International Criminal Court was established. We saw another leap in 2011 with the Arab Spring.

It is too early to tell the full implications of the revolutions in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya for human rights, to say nothing of the future of Syria or Bahrain. But at the very least they demonstrate that tens of thousands of Muslims, not incidentally including women, were willing to put their lives on the line for a chance at greater freedom. The successful humanitarian military intervention in Libya set a precedent that cannot help but unnerve tyrants everywhere.

But most human rights change comes about one step at a time, in those relatively modest forward movements that may not seem momentous at first, but often prove in the long run to be transformative. We had lots of such developments in 2011, some of them barely noted in the media.

One that has gotten far less attention than it deserves has been the role of regional organizations in the pursuit of human rights. Traditionally it has been the United Nations or one of the great powers, often the United States, which has taken the lead in confronting human rights violations. But this year the Arab League, long an apologist for authoritarian leaders, not only provided cover for the military intervention in Libya but is signaling strong disapproval of the carnage in Syria. Indeed, Arab League monitors are on the ground in Syria today.

And one of the reasons that Burma (Myanmar) may be on the brink of reform is because of its desire to be seen as a leader within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Having to be accountable to your neighbors, not just the international community, both improves enforcement — the more sheriffs, the better! — and signals that human rights norms, like respect for free speech or abhorrence of mass atrocities, have now penetrated more locally.

Or consider that people at the grassroots seem to have found their voices in some of the most surprising places. It was not just in Tahrir Square or at Occupy Wall Street demonstrations that average citizens took to the streets. Russia, long thought a "hotbed" of passivity, has been rocked by protests over electoral fraud.

China, which experiences thousands of minor citizen revolts each year over such issues as corruption and environmental damage, usually leaves their resolution to local officials. But demonstrations in Wukan, Guangdong Province, over secret land deals and the killing of a local villager became so large, raucous, & well-publicized that higher-ups felt the need to step in to negotiate.

Even in repressive Kazakhstan, oil workers have refused to give up their protests over wages and working conditions despite a brutal government response. Thanks to the Internet, citizens in every corner of the globe (with the exception of North Korea) are learning that even the most authoritarian government cannot afford to ignore its people's will forever.

Or finally look at respect for the rule of law. True, Muammar Qaddafi was summarily executed by the Libyan rebels. But Laurent Gbagbo, former Ivory Coast strongman, was transferred by his adversaries to The Hague following his indictment by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for crimes against humanity committed after he refused to concede his defeat for reelection.

International law is still a fragile instrument and the ICC's failure to win any convictions of those it has indicted means that its effectiveness has not yet been proven. But Mr. Gbagbo's transfer, with the support even of countries like the United States that has failed to join the Court, reflects recognition that legal remedies can often be more attractive than military ones.

All this is not to deny that rape continues largely unabated in Congo or that China continues to hold thousands in prison without trial or that Robert Mugabe continues to use force and fear to sustain his rule in Zimbabwe. Burma may slip back into total repression and who knows when North Korea will emerge from it. Occasionally human rights even regress.

But at the end of the day, the fundamentally positive direction of change is clear. **For human rights, 2011 was a year far more deserving of celebration than tears.**

~UUSC.ORG

~ William F. Schulz, former Executive Director of Amnesty International USA, is President of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.



Books for Prisoners-This nonprofit organization provides reading materials to inmates free of charge around the state of Florida. Look for the box in the church library to donate your reading materials. Books for Prisoners is sponsored by **Open Books**, a collectively owned, non-profit bookstore started by a group of people involved with the Prison Book Project. **Open Books** reopened in a new location, 1040 N. Guillemard Street, at the corner of Guillemard & Desoto. 8 Visit them on the web at www.openbookspcola.org.



REGroups in February Sundays from 11:15-12:15



Religious Exploration Groups (REGroups, for short) will be offered every Sunday with two adult options for small group discussion, except when we have church potlucks and holiday breaks. REGroups are designed to be interactive, so bring your questions, comments, opinions and ideas with you. This is a wonderful way to get to know other members and friends of UUCP, to enjoy some interesting discussions and just have a good time.

For every Sunday of REGroups, we will provide **childcare and a multi-age social activity for the kids**, so that people of **all ages are encouraged to participate**. NO sign-up is needed. Come see what your church is doing for YOU!! We look forward to seeing you in one of our REGroups offerings... ~Thom Botsford, Adult Education Ministry Team

February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26
Chalice Circle w/Rev. Julie	Pruning and Pizza! Church Work Day w/ Lunch	<i>The Price of Civilization</i> w/ Thom Botsford	Meet and Greet w/ Rev. Julie
Sanctuary Renovation Project Discussion With Tip McAlpin	Free Time- Visit the Library New Books Available!	Free Time- Visit the Library New Books Available!	Mormonism w/ Jan Hervieux
MultiGen Activity	MultiGen Activity	MultiGen Activity	MultiGen Activity

The REGroups covenant includes time at each session for personal introductions and small group conversation; the session will break at 12:15 for folks who need to leave.

February 5

Sanctuary Improvement Project Discussion

Feb 5th during the RE Groups Tip McAlpin and Lucy McLendon will be available in the Sanctuary to discuss the Sanctuary Project. Please come with your thoughts and questions about the enhancement of the Sanctuary.



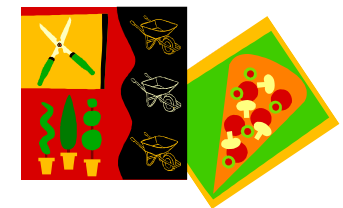
Chalice Circle With Rev. Julie

Open to all Newcomers and Parents

February 12

Pruning and Pizza Church Work Day with lunch provided.

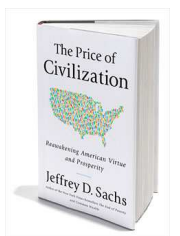
Wear your jeans to church! Donations of salad appreciated.



February 19

The Price of Civilization With Thom Botsford

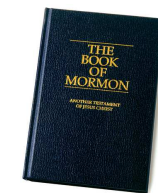
Book Discussion and Talk on "The Price of Civilization" by macroeconomist Jeffrey Sachs



February 26

Mormonism With Jan Hervieux

Film Clip and Discussion on Mormonism .



Meet and Greet with Newcomers With Rev. Julie

Welcome New Members, Buz and Muffie Ryland

Buz (Andre) Ryland worked in sales and management positions for close to 40 years in a half-dozen companies, including one of his own, mostly building, selling or installing cabinets and other furnishings, and for seven of those years managing restaurants in Wisconsin. Muffie (Meredith) Ryland flew with Eastern Airlines for 22 years as a flight attendant, later worked as a quality control inspector for a lighting company, and wrapped up her career by serving as a dental assistant.

But there's much more to their life stories.

Buz's most exciting moment while serving for a dozen years as a volunteer EMT and firefighter in Richmond, IL., occurred when a fire broke out in a building where a circus was storing tigers and elephants between shows. "We slid open those sliding doors, and there were three or four elephants standing there waiting, swinging back and forth. The trainers were there. We saved them all." Buz was also twice-elected to the village's Board of Trustees in Richmond, helping get town projects under way, such as a new Village Hall and a new water tower. And, still in his spare time, he coached Little League baseball, where his son, Jarin, was a player. Meanwhile, he was working full time in management and for six of those years running his own company, Wooden World, which custom-made furniture.

Muffie, during her years with Eastern, appreciated being able to see the world and learn about other cultures, and enjoyed meeting people and helping passengers, and vacationing in Europe, Israel, China, Japan and Central America. When Eastern went bankrupt, however, in 1989, she opted not to start over again with another airline, making other career choices instead.

The story of the couple's marriage has an unusual, and happy, turn. At age 15, each was in the wedding party as his brother and her sister married each other. After that, Buz and Muffie went their separate ways, each marrying someone else. Fifteen years later, they met again, in Minneapolis, both by then single once more – and they married each other.

Buz was raised in Antigo, Wis., and graduated in 1971 from the University of Wisconsin, following studies in geography, geology and history. His son and daughter-in-law, Cindy, live in Madison, Wis. Muffie was born in Evanston, IL., and grew up in Palatine, IL.

The couple spent a goodly share of their career years in Richmond, but by the late 90's, they determined that they wanted to move back to Wisconsin, and begin winding down – just a tad. Living in the Milwaukee suburban area had one special advantage, says Muffie, "We were only five minutes from Miller Park, and went to a lot of the Milwaukee Brewers games."

Both Buz and Muffie were raised in the Methodist Church, and now define themselves as humanists. They became interested in Unitarianism in the late '90s, and were UU members in Milwaukee. What appeals about UU theology: "Being able to congregate with many different-thinking people," says Buz. And being among people who are less rigid in their thinking, says Muffie.

In 2010, the Rylands decided to hang up their tools, turn the keys on their Wisconsin home and move South, choosing Pensacola for its climate, agreeable size and appealing culture – a place where together they can enjoy her leisure pursuits of gardening and reading, and his affinity for baseball, golf and music. ~ *Charlotte Crane*

The Harwell Family

Matt and Donna Harwell and their two children came to Gulf Breeze last August when Matt accepted a position as a branch chief for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, focusing on Ecosystem Assessments. The family joined our UUCP fellowship after attending a few services and finding themselves "welcomed and comfortable in the UUCP community."

There's a fun thing to know about the Harwell name. Reports Donna: "Harwell comes from the old English 'Harewell,' which means rabbits in the warren (and the family crest has rabbits on them too). Over the past 15+ years we have adopted or rescued three dwarf rabbits (bred to be domesticated, i.e., not intended to be wild animals) that needed a home and family. Our current rabbits, Ginger and Fred, fill us with laughter. Every time Matt plays with them it reminds him of how desperate they were to be rescued, which makes him proud that we give them a safe and happy home now."

The Harwell family includes son Reid, 10, who is in the 5th grade at Gulf Breeze Elementary, and daughter, Deanne, 8 years old and in the 2nd grade at GBE. Scouting is big for both – and for Mom: Reid is in Cub Scouts and working hard for his Webelos badge and Arrow of Light; Deanne is a Brownie Girl Scout, and Mom is an active volunteer for Scouts – as well as for Gulf Breeze Elementary.

Donna and Matt met at the University of South Florida in Tampa, and both graduated in 1994, Matt with a B.S. in biology and Donna with a B.A. in Italian and international studies. They married a few days after graduation and moved to Gloucester Point, Va., where Matt attended the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary, studying sea grass ecology and ecosystem restoration. He graduated with a Ph.D. in 2000. Meanwhile, Donna attended the T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond, in Richmond, Va., and received her J.D. in 1998 and became a member of the Virginia State Bar.

Prior to Matt's recent appointment, he spent nine years at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service working on Everglades restoration issues. Donna has taken some time out to be a Mom, but also over the past seven years has taught a variety of law courses online for three different colleges.

Donna grew up in Mineola, N.Y., on Long Island, where her parents, Charles and Dorothy Lotten, still reside. Donna was baptized Catholic, in her father's religion, and raised Episcopalian, her mother's faith. Matt wasn't raised within a single organized faith tradition. His parents, Mark and Chris Harwell, live in Port Orange, and Matt's sister lives in Orlando. Donna and Matt's thought on their spiritual choice today: "UUCP allows us to raise our children with solid core principles and values without having to believe in a very specific and narrow dogma." ~ *Charlotte Crane*

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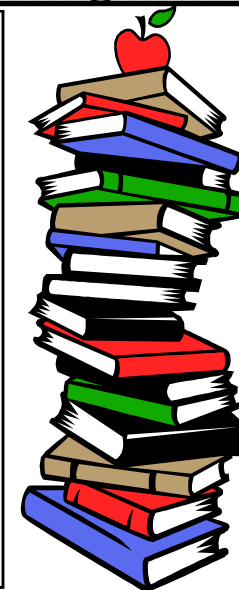
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